[84 cont.]

142
516
291
301
854
342

Fig. 15. Women and children in front of a trader's house (G. Küppers-Loosen Coll.)

291 Edge-Partington illustrates wider ornamental belts, which apparently are patterned with shell disks in a fashion similar to the arm bands (2). According to Dillon, bunches of fragrant herbs

[824]

2. Edge-Partington, I, 166, Nos. 2-3.

are worn in the belt, front and back (3).

3. Dillon, p. 315.

301 As has been said, the women wear far fewer ornaments than the men (4). Those that they do wear, however, correspond to

4. Joest in Baessler, p. 378.

[89 cont.]
293 as umbrellas on Vanikoro (3).

3. F. de Tolna, pp. 268 f.

Houses and House Furnishings; Plan of Village

• 342 The Spaniards under Mendana found the houses on Ndeni round and built of boards, with a main post in the center. The roofs were covered with mats and palm leaves, the walls open up to half the height of a man, [Fig. 19 appears here] surrounded

[137]

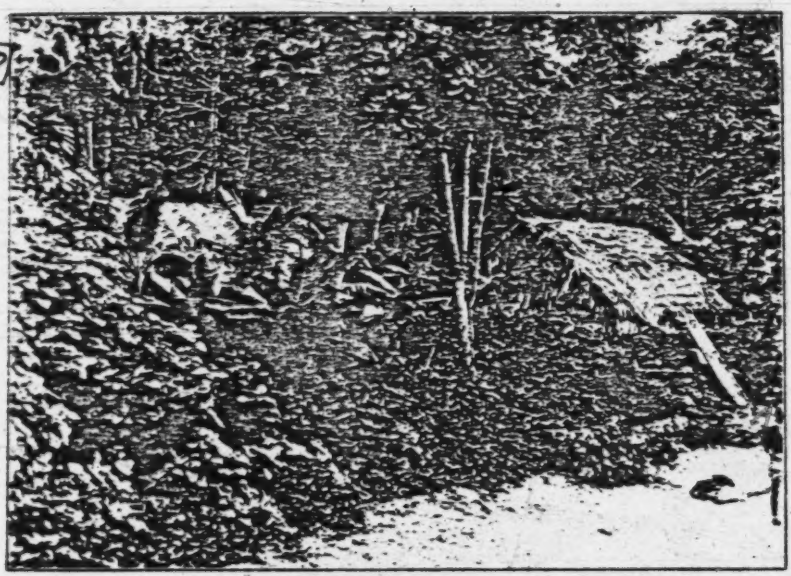


Fig. 19. Houses in the bush, stone rampart visible at right. (G. Küppers-Loosen Coll.)

[351] only by a loosely piled-up stone wall, with an entrance at one side. The houses were supposed to have had two stories, the upper one reached by means of a small ladder. In each village
346 there were two larger buildings, one of which served religious
[532] purposes and contained human figures that were crude and flat in execution, while the [90] other, the meeting house or bachelors'
349 house, had the well-known bedframes of bamboo, as well as a
[352] kind of courtyard fenced in with rattan, perhaps the dance area.
351

[90 cont.]

342 [346] The Spanish reports do not say whether these two huts differed in shape from the others (1). In the more recent reports,

1. Dalrymple, p. 194. Burney, p. 168. The report about the existence of two-story huts must be regarded as trustworthy. It would only have been possible for Figueroa to have confused them with the pile houses of Isabel. Two-story houses occur frequently in New Guinea.

[114]

Carteret, Coote, and Joest describe the bachelors' houses as rectangular (2). Dillon says the spirit houses and bachelors'

2. Carteret, p. 358. Coote, ill., p. 162. Joest in Baessler, p. 394. D'Entrecasteaux, p. 379, mentions only rectangular huts.

houses are round, but he seems to be confused about the house types (3). [Fig. 20 appears here.] The shape of the dwelling

[184]

3. Dillon, p. 314. He maintains that the dwellings contain 40 to 50 persons each, which obviously refers to the bachelors' houses.

apparently differs in the various parts of the island; Markham and Joest describe them as round (4), whereas D'Entrecasteaux

4. Markham, p. 165. Joest in Baessler, p. 394.

mentions only rectangular huts, which, [91] according to Codrington's informants, formed the majority by far (1). The

• 342 [91 cont.]

1. D'Entrecasteaux, p. 379. Codrington, The Melanesians, p. 301.

houses in the photographs available to me are likewise all rectangular huts with gabled roofs (Figs. 19-23). The number of entrances reported varies from one to

[137 516]

Fig. 20. House (G. Küppers-Loosen Coll.) A coconut scraper leans against the house on the right.

four (2). Statements about the size likewise differ; Markham

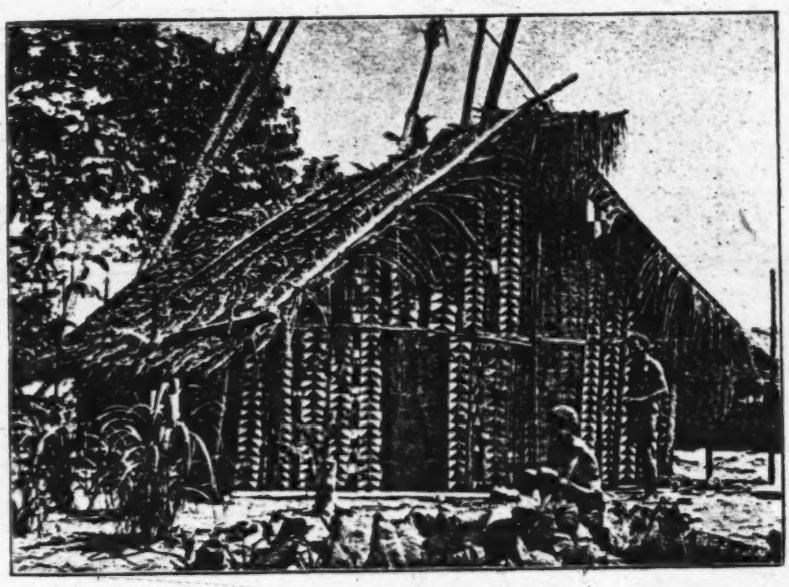
2. Figueroa (previous page, footnote 1): one entrance. Dillon, p. 290: entrance at the ends and each side. Coote, p. 162: two or three rectangular openings as entrances. D'Entrecasteaux, p. 379, speaks of "portes et fenêtres" [doors and windows], mistakenly no doubt.

[91 cont.]
speaks of small, low huts (3), whereas D'Entrecasteaux, Dillon, 342 ●

3. Markham, p. 165.

and Dewar specifically stress the size and airy construction (4).

4. D'Entrecasteaux, p. 379. Dillon, p. 290. Dewar, p. 248.



346
531
137

Fig. 21. Spirit House. (G. Küppers-Loosen Coll.)

The stone walls around the houses are often [Fig. 21 appears here] mentioned (Fig. 19), in Dillon some that are five feet high and the same in thickness (5). With regard to the construction 351 000

5. Dalrymple, p. 194. D'Entrecasteaux, p. 372. Dillon, pp. 290, 301. Dewar, p. 248. Joest in Baessler, p. 394. What seems to be a stone terrace in Coote, p. 162, is probably a wall running around the house.

342 [91 cont.] With regard to the construction Markham says that the roof was covered with coconut leaves, Joest that the "grass roofs" extend to the ground. Carteret reports that the walls of the bachelors' [92] houses were hung [353] with plaited mats (1). In the trader's house built by natives,

1. Markham, p. 195. Carteret, p. 358. Joest in Baessler, p. 394.

which Joest describes, the three rows of posts and the roof beams were of wood and the rest of the frame of bamboo and rattan; the roof was covered with sago leaves (2). The photographs

2. Joest in Baessler, p. 369.

available to me also clearly show this roof covering of atap, sago-palm leaves worked into shingle-like forms (Figs. 19-20); [285] only here and there are plaited coconut mats to be seen. The walls are made in the same way (3); sometimes layers of leaf-

3. Cf. also F. de Tolna, pp. 273 f. (ill.).

work or cane-work, held together on the outside by perpendicular pieces of wood or a network of bamboo (Fig. 22) are seen as reinforcement. 346 The walls of the spirit house in Figure 21 531 are covered on the outside with pieces of bark or leaves and sewed with a network of bamboo strips; the areas between the bamboo strips are painted different colors -- black, white and red -- which produces a very pleasing pattern. 342 Thilenius (4)

4. Thilenius, Ethnographische Ergebnisse aus Melanesien [Ethnographic Results from Melanesia], I, p. 62. [113]

mentions folding doors plaited out of coconut leaves, whose sections lie against each other to the full extent of the surface.

[92 cont.]

342 On the Reef Islands Quiros mentions the roof covering
171 of palm leaves and the walls of matting (5). The parallels

5. Dalrymple, p. 127.

that Coote draws with the New Hebrides (6), as well as the

6. Coote, p. 154.

general silence about the shape of the houses, leads one to conclude that the widespread rectangular gabled house predominates. The interior of houses on Nufiloli is divided by
353 partitions from three to four feet high into as many as six sec-
513 tions, each of which serves as a sleeping room for a wife of
595 the owner. The chief's house that Coote entered contained four
562 of them (7). When a stranger entered, each woman retired

7. Coote, ibid.

silently to her room.

342 For Vanikoro, as for Ndeni the presence of the two hut forms, the gable-roofed huts and the conical-roofed huts, side by side seems to be typical, except that here they do not seem to be separated by locality as they are there, although according to the illustrations in D'Urville and F. de Tolna, the individual types seem to predominate in certain places (8). Only

8. D'Urville, pp. 153; 355 (Sainson); 361 (Quoy); Atlas, Pl. 182 ff. F. de Tolna pp. 267 ff.

the gable-roofed huts are described in more detail by D'Urville, as well as by Dillon (9), and perhaps it may be concluded from

9. Dillon, pp. 273 f. D'Urville, pp. 216, 326.

[92 cont.]
this that here, too, the bachelors' houses, into which the Whites, as guests, were always first ushered, [93] [Figs. 22 and 23 appear here] [94] were, as a rule, the gable-roofed type. Special spirit huts seem to be present only here and there on Vanikoro and of little importance (1); as a rule they coincide

1. D'Urville, pp. 151, 178; 327, 329, 334, and 337 (Gaimard).

with the bachelors' houses, of which there is one in each village and which differ from the dwellings of the same type only by their greater size and the bedframes or "cots" (2). As its

2. Dillon, pp. 206, 215, 249. D'Urville, pp. 151, 216; 327 (Gaimard); 355 f. (Sainson). The nature of the "chiefs' houses" with a corner that is taboo, mentioned by F. de Tolna, pp. 273 f., is uncertain. Lesson, Revue d'Anthropologie, V, p. 267.

principal supports a typical gable-roofed house has three rows of piles -- the one described for Teve rested on three center posts; the piles are driven about three feet into the ground, and their height above ground is 12 to 15 feet in the center row, four to five feet in the side rows. The center row supports the ridge piece; the side rows, a side beam each. These three beams are connected by means of the lighter purlins; all the parts are tied together with coconut fibers. The roof is covered with coconut mats; the edges project beyond the side walls. The walls, too, are closed with coconut mats. The doors, of which each house has one to three -- according to Lesson, usually only one -- are made by leaving an opening between two wall piles and are sometimes closed with boards. The total length of a house comes to about 10 to 20 French feet, the width, six to ten (3). The round huts, according to Sainson,

3. Dillon, pp. 274, 242. D'Urville,

[93 cont.]

342
516
291
854
137

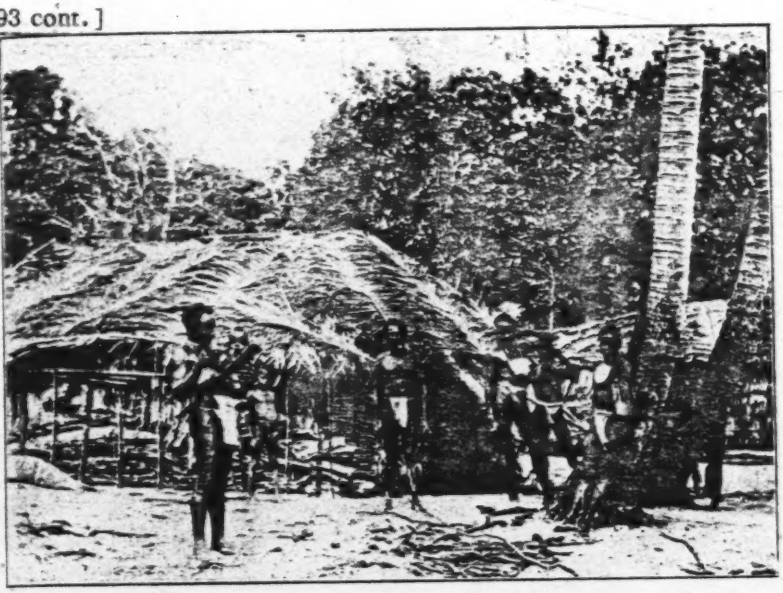


Fig. 22. Village Scene. (G. Küppers-Loosen Coll.)

361
342
501
137

Fig. 23. Beach Scene. In connection with Fig. 22, the arrangement of the houses in a row along the shore can be seen. (G. Küppers-Loosen Coll.)

342
[113]

[94 cont.]

p. 216; 326 (Gaimard). D'Urville, Voyage au Pole Sud, V, p. 9. Lesson, Revue d'Anthropologie, V, p. 266. The gabled house pictured in D'Urville, Voyage de l'Astrolabe, p. 153 (probably the bachelors' house), has two doors on the visible gabled side. The entrances of the round huts are not an inconsiderable distance above the ground.

were faced or covered with cane (4). Quoy and Gaimard men-

4. D'Urville, p. 355.

tion oval huts, which are not identical with the conical-roofed huts, but have two center supporting posts. The hut of a chief in Nama built in this fashion was 15 to 18 feet high in the center and slightly over five feet on the sides (5).

5. D'Urville, pp. 332 and 361.

353 On the islands of the group the interior of the hut, dark because of the low doors, is covered with mats (6). It always

6. Joest in Baessler, p. 369. Carteret, p. 358. Dillon, p. 301. Markham, p. 154.

354 has a burning fire, the smoke of which is at the same time ef-
[136] fective protection against mosquitoes and acts to a certain extent as a disinfectant (7). On Vanikoro -- and also on Ndeni,

7. Joest in Baessler, p. 395.

according to Dillon -- the fire area was in the center of the hut. Here it is square, about eight square feet in size and two

/170/

Houses and Village Layout

342 Round huts (1) are found only in individual instances in a

1. [Ethn., I, pp. 89 f.]

few villages. They are always family or women's houses which [361] are located in the women's village [cf. Fig. 12], and therefore I was never able to examine such a round hut carefully or to photograph it. The round huts seem to be disappearing. They consist chiefly of a conical roof, on whose peak rests a conically shaped coral stone [or a basket upside down or a leaf form]. The walls are low, often carefully put together with boards [more often, however, covered with sago leaves, on the Reef Islands with coconut leaves]; around the foundation of the house is a ring of coral slabs [to keep off the rain water. A low entrance leads [359] into the interior, in the center of which is the same fire-pit with the bamboo implement above it as is in the men's houses (2).]

2. [O'Ferrall, section "Round Houses."] Cf. Coombe, p. 188 with accompanying plate.--[For a conical-roofed hut on the Reef island Matema, see Coombe, plate accompanying p. 199, illustration at upper right.]

[192] According to Thilenius, the rafters are called malawe, the boards of the walls, maliki.

Most of the houses have gables and a rectangular ground plan (3). The men's houses are typical (cf. Fig. 12a) (4). They 342

3. [Ethn., I, pp. 90 ff. Of the illustrations of Nitendi there, Figs. 19-23, only Fig. 19 can be regarded with certainty as a view of this island. Fig. 20 could,

/170 cont./

• 342

as has now been shown (cf. above, p. 10, footnote 2), also represent a house on the Reef Islands. Figs. 21-23, however, show houses on Utupua. This explains their divergent construction or form. Figs. 22 and 23 probably show oval houses, in any case not gabled huts, as Graebner, p. 91, believes; such oval houses are also documented for Vanikoro (Ethn., I, p. 94).]

4. [Cf. Speiser, Südsee, p. 293, with Ill. 92 (top) and 87. According to O'Ferrall, JAI, XXXIV, p. 228 (see also Santa Cruz and the Reef Islands, sections "Round Houses" and "A 'Club House'"), they are called madai; according to Coombe, p. 187, mandai.]

have a square ground plan, with sides about seven meters long. Generally there is a door in the center of each /171/ wall (1).

1. [According to Girieud and Herrenschmidt, p. 106, this is also true of the Reef Islands. See also O'Ferrall (Ethn., I, p. 94, footnote 3) for men's houses with two doors next to each other on one side on Tumotu and Pileni. The photograph of Pileni is reproduced also in Coombe, plate accompanying p. 205.]

The gabled roof is supported by three rows of posts. The middle posts (known as kaiboi, according to Thilenius) are three to four

/171 cont./

●342 meters high; the outer ones (tamba: Thil.) are shorter, corresponding to the slant of the roof. The posts, which are rammed into the earth, are forked or notched at the top and on them lie the supporting beams (nawa: Thil.). Upon these rest the cross-poles of bamboo (anawa: Thil.), which, in turn, are connected below with longitudinal bamboo poles (kupale: Thil.). Four to five horizontal bamboo poles rest on the cross-poles, and on top of them are lighter /Fig. 12 appears here/ cross-sticks (naluk: Thil.), upon which the sago-palm leaves strung on sticks (lo: Thil.) are tied like roof tiles to form the roof (2). The posts usually consist of

2. [According to Graebner, Ethn., I, p. 92, plaited coconut mats are also supposed to be used as roof covering, but this is obviously an error.]

trunks of the tree fern; the beams are of some kind of hard wood. The front and back wall are made of boards of the tree fern /172/ (tergu: Thil.) which, standing upright, are roughly fitted together and tied at two or three places with rattan. The horizontal bamboo poles on the gable walls are called male, according to Thilenius. Sometimes there are no side walls; then the roof reaches to the ground. Otherwise the side walls are similar in construction to the gable walls (1). The doors are very low,

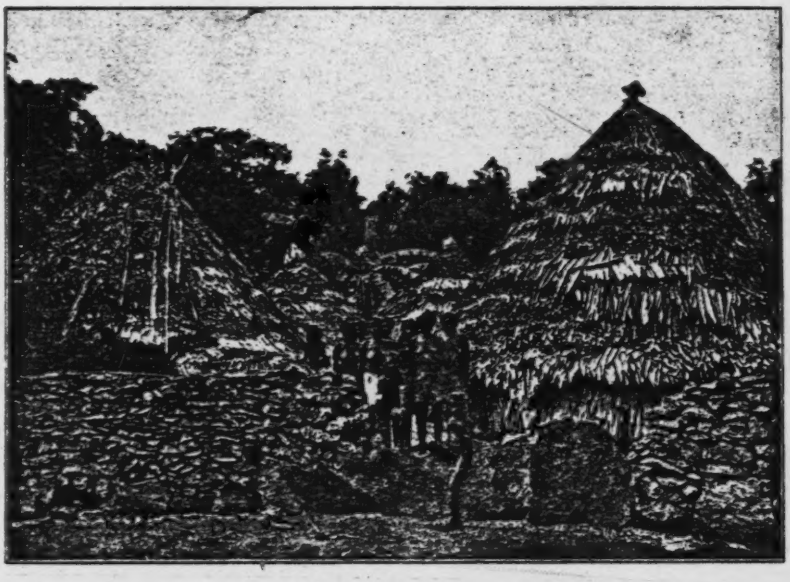
1. [The wall construction described here is not universal on Nitendi. Cf. Ethn., I, p. 92, and Figs. 19 and 20 there (the latter, however, possibly from the Reef Islands; cf. above. p. 10, footnote 2), as well as Speiser, Südsee, Ill. 84 (center house), and O'Ferrall, illustration to section "A Club-House." The latter points out, however, that the palm-leaf covering is not typical. On

/172 cont./

• 342

the Reef Islands it seems to be customary (cf. the illustrations in O'Ferrall and Coombe).]

[36
35]



[Fig. 12.] Women's village, Tumotu, near Nitendi; with conical-roofed huts, on the peaks of which are fixed cone-shaped coral stones, leaf forms, or baskets. (From a photo. by Beattie, Hobart, in the possession of the R.-J.-M.)

scarcely higher than 75 centimeters. Often they are set in a frame whose upper piece is sometimes carved (Fig. 13). Not infrequently there are folding doors, heavy, wide, tree-fern boards which are pressed against the door opening with wooden wedges from the inside and shut tight; Thilenius mentions folding doors plaited of coconut leaves (2). The roof covering is thicker or thinner, depending on how

2. [Cf. Ethn., I, p. 92.]

/172 cont./

342 carefully the houses are built /Fig. 12a appears here/, that is, the sticks with the palm leaves are placed closer together or farther apart, which determines the thickness of the roof. The ridge of the roof is usually covered with a beam, often a discarded canoe, weighted down with blocks of coral (3). As superficial protection

3. [Speiser, Südsee, Ill. 92, top.]

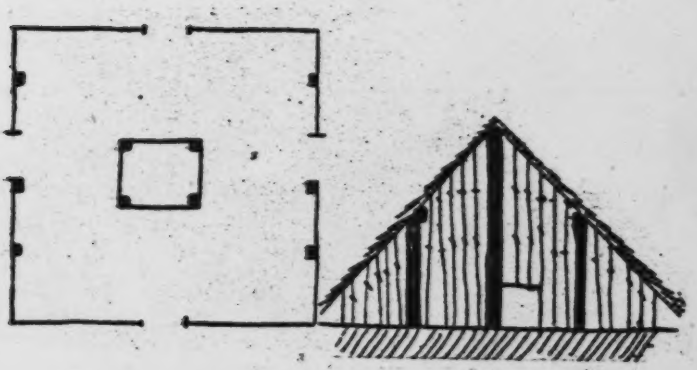


Fig. 12a. Floor plan and interior of the gabled wall of a men's house; 7 meters wide, door-opening 1 meter wide, hearth 1.5 meters square. (Drawn by Speiser.)

for the roof, plain or plaited coconut leaves are laid on it (4).

4. [See also Ethn., I, p. 89, Fig. 19. The same on Utupua, Figs. 21 and 22 (on the origin, cf. above, p. 10, footnote 2).]

Many of the family houses are very similar to the men's houses.

/173/ Inland the architecture is somewhat different.

[184] Instead of upright boards, the gable walls are built of horizontal bamboos tied together one above the other, and at one end of the house there is often a semicircular, roofed front part.

/173 cont./

house there is often a semicircular, roofed front part. Whether this type of house is native to Nitendi or has been imported in recent times, for example, from the New Hebrides, is not known.

In the center of the men's houses there is always a square fire-pit (1) that is about one and a half meters long at the sides

1. [Ethn., I, pp. 94f. Coombe, pp. 187 f. Speiser, Südsee, p. 293. Cf. Fig. 12a here.]

and about 30 centimeters deep. Its walls consist of large beams of hardwood. A fire is always maintained there, but it is not used for cooking. A stout post is rammed in at each corner of the pit, upon which a shaft of split bamboo is set over the fire area (lewe: Thil.). Not only are all kinds of objects stored there (2),

2. ["As protection against the rats," O'Ferrall says in speaking of the round houses.]

but also the nets are dried and nowadays copra is smoked there. /Fig. 13 appears here./ The posts are sometimes carved (3)

3. [According to O'Ferrall, section "Round Houses," this is also true of the round dwellings if they belong to an important man.]

with simple designs; in that case they are said to be worshiped and to represent the [duka-] posts that elsewhere are found in the spirit house and are said to have a form similar to that shown in Coombe, p. 197 (4). -- [On certain bamboo poles woven aprons

[TEXT CONTINUES TOP of P. 50 -- Analyst]

4. The presence of special spirit houses on Nitendi also (cf. Ethn., I,

/173 cont./

346

pp. 89 f.) is confirmed by O'Ferrall, section "A Ghost House" (see also Coombe, p. 190). Some of them

[361]

stand near the men's house, some outside the village wall in the bush, and they are in part large, solid structures and in part miserable huts.

[531]

The beams are sometimes carved, and the walls there are painted with figures in white, red, and black (cf.

[342]
[533]

Fig. 13. Upper part of door frame, carved with fish designs. (From a drawing by Speiser.)

below, p. 128, footnote 1). On one side there are always duka posts

[118]

(Ethn., I, p. 148), such as Coombe shows from the Reef island Matema. This author also mentions "a bedstead-shaped altar" /cited in English/ which is found near the entrance and upon which food offerings are placed. Concerning spirit houses of the Reef Islands, see O'Ferrall, ibid., and Coombe, pp. 199, 203. A spirit house of Utupua is shown in Ethn., I, p. 91, Fig. 21 (for its designation, cf. above, p. 10, footnote 2).]

[i.e., spirit houses--Analyst]

/173 cont./

[348] and fishing implements are hung. From the roof dangle the bones [352] and skulls of pigs, fish, and turtles, reminders of important fes- [825] tivities (5).] In one or two corners of the house there is a light,

5. [O'Ferrall, section "A 'Club House.'" Coombe, pp. 187 f. The description of how the bamboo poles are set up differs.

[548] low enclosure with a half-height /174/ entrance. These are the sleeping areas for the prostitutes, who live entirely with the men and are the only women permitted to enter the men's house. The [352] floor of the house, which [is strewn with beach pebbles (1) and] is [356]

1. [O'Ferrall, section "A Club House"; Coombe, p. 187.]

covered with plaited mats [made of fronds of the coconut palm (2)]

2. [O'Ferrall, section "Mat Making"; Coombe, p. 187.]

is kept scrupulously clean (3).

3. [Before entering the men's house, the feet are cleaned by rubbing them against stones and by stamping up and down (Coombe, p. 187).]

[361] [342] All the men's houses stand on stone bases (4), and the

4. [O'Ferrall, section "A Club House"; Coombe, p. 187. For the Reef Islands, see Girieud and Herrenschmidt, p. 106. Steps lead up to the doors: Speiser, Südsee, p. 293.]

/175 cont./

361 [912] on the shore. Walls were then required to give support to the slope and also to defy unusually heavy seas. In /176/ places where the coral forms a bank close to the shore, the lower terrace wall is lacking.

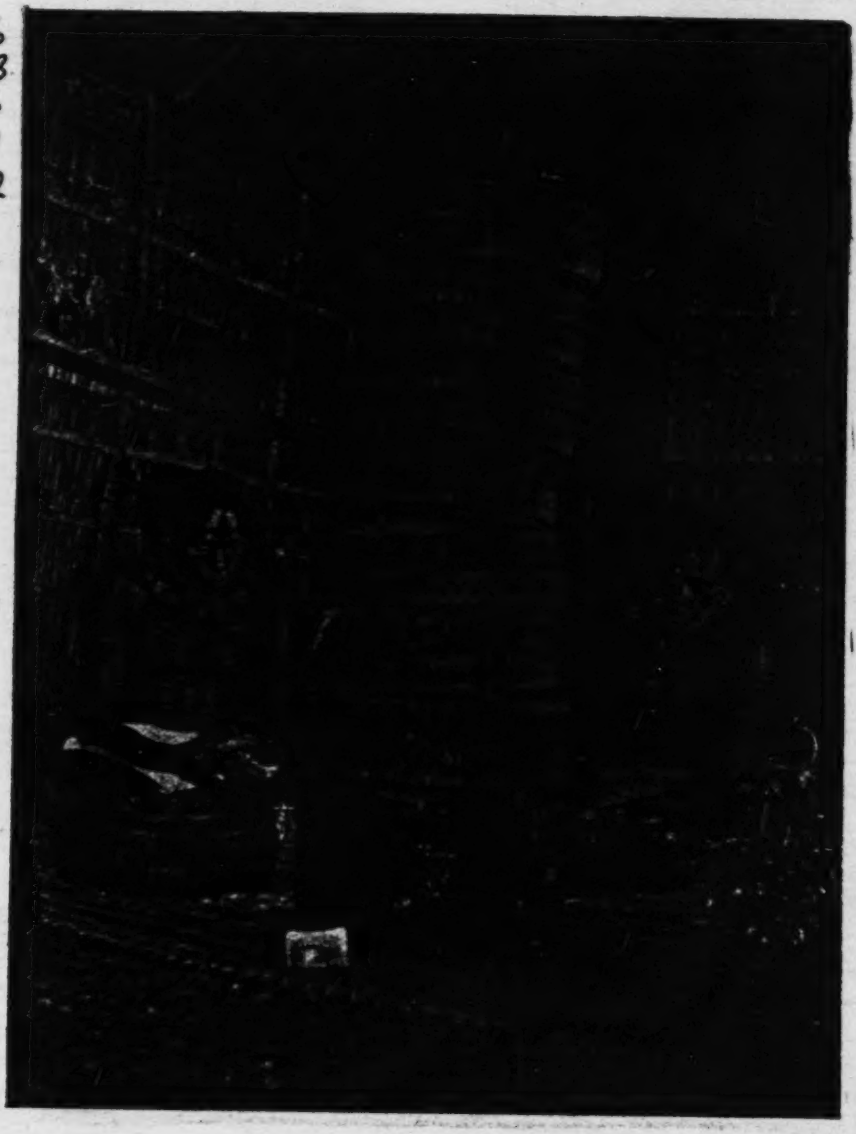
[363] [351] The houses stand rather close together, and the narrow paths between them are usually bordered with walls a meter

[Fig. 15.] Group of houses surrounded by a wall on the Reef Island Matema. (From a photo. by Beattie, Hobart, in the possession of the R.-J.-M.)

high. [The same is true of the Reef island Matema (cf. Fig. 15).] The houses directly on the beach are always the men's houses, and one usually finds several, only one of which is occupied, however, while the others are in all stages of dilapidation. This is explained by the fact that each new village chief must build himself a new men's house, whereas the one of his predecessor, who is buried in his men's house, may no longer be entered and Therefore falls into ruins (1).

1. [Speiser, Südsee, p. 295]

436
583
516
291
342



[p94(A)]

S:Davenport E-6 (1960-1969)1962
ON13 Santa Cruz ON13

486
583
[482]
[291]
[487]

DELIVERING BRIDE PRICE, women parade from the groom's village to the bride's, showing off the feather currency along the way.

[342]

PREPARING BRIDE PRICE for delivery, the groom's family wraps each piece that has been selected in a new piece of cloth.

[49(E)]